

FIELD AND ROEBUCK HOUSES PROFIT BY LOW WAGE

A large part of the profits gleaned from the overwork of the tired fingers of 10,000 half-starved ladies' garment workers of the city goes to two of our so-called respectable business institutions, Marshall Field & Co. and Sears, Roebuck & Co.

This was the claim made by Ben Schlessinger, president of the ladies' garment workers' union, today, on the eve of the expected breaking of a bitter struggle between the laborers who produce and the owners who profit in the making of ladies' waists, skirts, corsets, coats and underwear.

Most of the big manufacturers whose places will be picketed by striking union workers dissatisfied with pay and conditions are under contract, written or verbal, to sell the greater part of their output to these two multi-million dollar firms.

So, through the low prices at which they buy from the manufacturers, these two stores are grabbing part of the benefit which comes to business from the starving of workers in which is called the worst paid industry in the world.

Schlessinger named a number of firms among those that supply the two big houses with their ladies' apparel, sold at fancy prices. In his list are: Arthur Weiss, 228 S. Market; Herman Spivak, 225 W. Adams; Applebaum & Stern, 228 S. Market; Flanders' Dress Co.; Nathan Ribbak & Co., where the workers are already out; O. Posner & Co. and Mitchell Bros., both at 325 W. Adams; Sobal & Co., 2007 W. Division, and Kahn, Rosenthal & Co., 1714 W. Division.

"Marshall Field & Co. make more off a lady's waist than do the workers whose toil makes a waist," declared Schlessinger today. "The hog-ish manufacturer makes more than both the worker and the store that sells. He gets too much entirely. It is his profits that we hope to cut down."

"The manufacturers, most of

whom have risen from the ranks of the garment working trade themselves, are the cause of rotten conditions here more than are the big stores or mail order houses, however. They have ground down their fellow workers in order to sell to the stores cheap.

"The average wage in the industry in Chicago today is \$7.50 a week. How can workers keep their bodies and souls together at that salary? I would like to know this.

"How can the young men in the business hope to marry and have families? I don't see.

"Do the manufacturers who make the girls work the full limit of the law in stinking factories, where the gas from the irons poisons the air, ever think of the kind of children these girls will bear if they are freed from the slavery by marriage?

"Most of the ladies' garment manufacturers are prominent in affairs of charity and patriotism. Why not start both of these in the factories which have made them rich? I would like to know why not."

MYSTERY OF MURDER LIES WITH SUNKEN BOAT?

The lake steamer C. W. Moore, which sunk at its docks in a river slip near Division street last Friday, may be the hiding place of a murder. Its owners think the boat might have been sunk on purpose to conceal the slaying of its captain, Alexander Day, who has not been seen since.

Day was paid \$350 by E. M. Seymour, president of the Southeastern Navigation Co., last week and Seymour thinks thieves may have slain him for the money and then sunk the boat to hide the crime. He says the opening of the ship's seacocks caused it to sink.

Palm Beach, Fla.—Mrs. Richard Croker, wife of former Tammany chief, wrecked auto against lamp post to save life of boy who dashed in front of car.